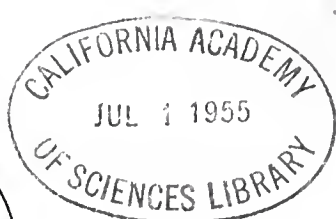


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MAY FIELD TRIP — PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Saturday, May 8, was rainy and bird watching was somewhat hampered although the group of people who had gathered by 1 p.m. did take a short walk and had a good view of a male Hermit Warbler.

Fortunately the rain ceased before dark and the group of fourteen members of the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies camped overnight, some had tents and others found dry shelter in an old CCC shed.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather camped there Friday night as well and saw a Golden Eagle and heard a Pygmy Owl and Poorwill.

Some people drove down Sunday morning which cleared beautifully and the group took the four mile walk over the High Peaks Trail with its spectacular rock formations, the Prairie Falcon being the highlight of the day.

The following seventy-five species of birds were seen: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Pygmy Owl, Poor-will, White-throated Swift, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-thr. Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, California Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Raven, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Bluebird, Western Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Cassin Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Macgilliv. Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Red-wing, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, Bl.-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cal. Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Lawrence Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and small flock of unidentified gulls.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Leader and Historian.*

MAY TRIPS OFFSHORE

The chartered boat trip to the FARALLON ISLANDS, originally scheduled for May 22, was so rapidly oversubscribed that an additional trip the previous day was arranged. With Harry Adamson as leader on the 21st, a group of 25 set out expecting to see many oceanic birds, but outside the Golden Gate the seas were so rough that much time was spent just keeping a stable position on deck! Despite difficulties in using binoculars under such conditions, several Guillemots, a hundred or more Murres (1 even in the Bay), and 300 or so Phalaropes (most or all Northern) were seen, as well as the common Gulls and Cormorants, and some unidentified porpoises. By the time the boat came to within about 6 miles of the island several Cassin Auklets were seen. As it was increasingly rough at this point, however, it was decided to return to the more sheltered bay. Here the mid-afternoon period was spent cruising north to near Marin Islands, East of San Rafael, where a very worthwhile new find took place—a nesting colony of about 120 American Egrets, one of the few such in the Bay Area. There were also about 15 Snowy Egrets and a Great Blue Heron on the island. Additional species seen in the Bay (some not found on the May 22 trip) included: Arctic Loon (at Berkeley), Western Grebe, Greater Scaup (female, off El Cerrito), Surf Scoter, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Forster Tern, Caspian Tern. All those who participated in this trip on so rough a day should be heartily congratulated for being so persistent and (most of them) such good sailors.

The trip on May 22, participated in by 23 persons, was not so rough, although there was water over the deck at times. Outward bound we went a bit northwest from the Gate and approached the S.E. Farallon from the north to meet the waves at the best angle. Then we circled the island slowly for 2 hours and had lunch between times while such birds as Puffins, Murres, Guillemots, Cassin Auklets, Northern Phalaropes, Brandt and Pelagic Cormorants, and Western Gulls, and scores of Steller Sea Lions, were studied and photographed. West of the island a mildly playful Gray Whale came close to us. On the return trip we went east from the island to where there had been a huge shearwater concentration on April 30, but found none there this trip. In a way, something here made up for their great scarcity, however, for no less than 15 Blackfooted Albatrosses swung over from following an incoming liner to settle behind us after suet and cottonseed oil were tossed over. Never before have so many been reported at one time this close to San Francisco (about 17 miles offshore when first seen, but several, including at least 2 additional ones, followed us closer in, one to 7½ miles offshore). One albatross was collected (the Ancient Mariner notwithstanding) and is being mounted in flying posture as a classroom attraction to encourage interest in the sea and birds among Mills College students. After this we actually found ourselves saying "Oh, it's only an albatross" (rather than the hoped—for shearwaters, only a few of which were seen the entire trip). A few of those aboard saw a single Petrel (either Black or Ashy) but by the time we reversed course to the area, it could not be found again. Final worthwhile additions were two flocks of Sabine Gulls flying north low over the water at 10 miles offshore—their typical course.

In the following list of 23 species seen, those found on the 21st also, are preceded by an asterisk*. The numerals (separated by commas) indicate the

number counted or estimated on the 22nd in each of the following three major areas: 1) in the Bay and Gate, 2) enroute thence to about 2 miles from the island and vice versa, 3) within 2 miles of the island.

*Loon, sp.? (most probably Arctic) -,45,-; *Western Grebe, 1,-,-; Black-footed Albatross, -,17 to 23,-; Sooty Shearwater, -,1,1; Pink-footed Shearwater, -,5,-; Shearwater sp.?, -,4,-; *Double-crested Cormorant, 5,1,2; *Brandt Cormorant, 4,155,000 est.; *Pelagic Cormorant, 1,-,300 est.; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1,-,-; Sandpiper sp.?, -,16,-; *Northern Phalarope (and Phalarope sp.?), 10,2000,5000 est.; *Glaucous-winged Gull, 2,-,-; *Western Gull, 150,300,8000 est.; *California Gull, 3,-,-; Ring-billed Gull, 1,2,-; Heermann Gull, 1,-,-; (*probale) Sabine Gull -,65,-; *Forster Tern, 18,3,-; *Caspian Tern, 2,-,-; *Common Murre, -,100,2000 est.; *Pigeon Guillemot, -,1,300 est.; *Cassin Auklet, -,70 est.; Tufted Puffin, -,30 est.

—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Historian, and Leader (May 22).*

MAY TRIP — MT. DIABLO STATE PARK

On a clear, brisk, Saturday, May 14, thirty-seven members and friends gathered at Danville, then proceeded on to Rock City on Mt. Diablo to explore the Oak and Chaparral slopes.

Birding in the morning was confined to the Rock City Area, but after lunch the group split, some heading for home — others going on the top of the mountain.

The following 49 species were seen: White Pelican, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, American Raven, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Bluebird, Western Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Bell Sparrow, Oregon Junco.

—LEE STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian.*

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from Berkeley, Miss

Doris E. Blakeslee, Mrs. Arthur E. Connick, Mr. David G. Rich; from Inverness, Mrs. Gus S. Miller; from Kentfield, Mrs. Lenore Mitchell; from Mill Valley, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Kelly, Dr. & Mrs. C. T. Terwilliger; from Oakland, Miss Alfrida P. Larson, Mrs. C. S. Richardson, Walker and Company, Manager; from Orinda, Mr. Philip D. Bush; from Richmond, Miss Lucile Meyer; from San Francisco, Pfc. William S. Anderson, Mrs. John P. Cutler, Mr. Lawrence Gracia, Mrs. Walter C. Hardman; from San Rafael, Mrs. Gordon E. Misner.

—MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman.*

JULY MEETING

The 454th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on July 14th, following a six o'clock picnic supper at the Codornices Fireplace, Euclid Avenue, opposite the Rose Garden in Berkeley. #7 bus. Bring your supper, one or two pieces of wood for the fire and interested friends. If you have been travelling out of the state be prepared to share the highlights of your bird observations, to the limit of five minutes, for our "Birding Far Afield" program.

—MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman*.

JULY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday and Sunday, July 16 - 17, to WRIGHTS LAKE and vicinity, 7000 feet alt., with scenic views. Relatively level land near lake away from highway and (we hope) week-end crowds. From Sacramento take U.S. 50 thru Placerville to 5 miles beyond Kyburz, then a dirt road (one lane with turn-outs) leads left to Wrights Lake, 7½ miles away; the first 5 miles rather steep, altho easily negotiable by drivers with any experience on mountain roads. Calliope Hummingbird, Arctic Woodpecker, Hammond and Wright Flycatchers, Mt. Bluebird, Hermit Warbler and others not found in the Bay Area may be seen. Headquarters; Forest Service Campground at end of road, from which, trips; 9 a.m. and 2 a.m., Saturday; 8 a.m., Sunday. Campers prepare for cold nights. Accommodations at resorts along U.S. 50 or at Lake Tahoe, 30 miles away. Leader, A. Laurence Curl, LA. 6-7004.

Sunday, July 24, to the SANTA CRUZ coast and SANTA CRUZ MTS. Meet 9 a.m. at the Ranger Station in Natural Bridges Beach State Park at the west city limits of Santa Cruz (left on Cliff Drive from Route 1 about 2 miles from center of city). To rocky shore, for Guillemots and possible Wandering Tattlers and Black Swifts, then via Bonny Doon, Ben Lomond to Big Basin, where Vaux Swifts, Purple Martins, and Winter Wrens are found. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch, and interested friends. Leader, Emily Smith, of Los Gatos.

—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Field Trips Chairman*.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS for 1955-56 will be held at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre, Allston Way and Grove St. Sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The series of 5 lectures—\$3.50. Please make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Audubon Screen Tours, P. O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. Prompt return advisable. Give name, address, phone no. and no. of tickets desired. Tickets will be sent in October.

—MRS. GEORGE C. BROWNE, *Screen Tours Chairman*.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year.

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